

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 131045 SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6469

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBSSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBSSY TUNIS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4454

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: FURTHER MOROCCAN SUPPORT FOR EGYPTIAN-ISRAEL AGREEMENT

REF: RABAT 4350

1. SEMI-OFFICIAL MAROC SOIR SEPTEMBER 12 CARRIED AUTHORITATIVE EDITORIAL BY PUBLISHER AHMED ALAOUI, CONFIDANT OF KING, STRONGLY SUPPORINTG U.S. AND EGYPTIAN PEACE MOVES. ALAOUI, IN UNUSUALLY WELL-BALANCED AND FRANK DISCUSSION, VIGOROUSLY REFUTED CIRITICISM THAT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT RUPTURES ARAB FRONT, SACRIFICES RIGHTS

OF PALESTINIANS, AND ALIGNS EGYPT WITH U.S. EDITORIAL ALSO EXPLAINED EGYPTIAN CONCESSIONS INCLUDING ENDING BELLIGERENCY AND ALLOWING ISRAELI NON-MILITARY CARGOES THROUGH CANAL, AT SAME TIME POINT-ING UP STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO EGYPT OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL BEYOND SINAI PASSES AND ECONOMIC VALUE OF EGYPTIAN RECOVERY OF ABU

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RUDEIS OIL.

2. ALAOUI WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT LATEST ACCORD WAS LOGICAL SEQUEL TO JANUARY 1974 DISENGAGEMENT, WHICH HAD HAD SUPPORT OF SYRIA AND USSR. ALAOUI ALSO VIEWED U.S. PARTICIPATION IN SINAI SURVEILLANCE AS A SIGNIFICANT NEW ELEMENT IN SITUATION, CITING POSITIVE

EVOLUTION OF U.S. POLICY SINCE 1973. NOTING THAT 1974 RABAT ARAB SUMMIT HAD SET NO CONDITIONS AS TO WHETHER STEP-BY-STEP OR OVERALL APPROACH SHOULD BE APPLIED TOWARD SETTLEMENT, ALAOUI UNDERLINED THAT NEW ACCORD DID NOT FREEZE SITUATION AND POINTED TO U.S. ENGAGEMENT TO CONTINUE TO MORE TOWARD FINAL SETTLEMENT.

3. SADAT CHARACTERIZED IN EDITORIAL AS A MAN OF HONOR AND COURAGE WHO "WILL NEVER ABANDON HIS BROTHERS, IN PARTICULAR THE PALESTINIANS."

SADAT ALSO CREDITED WITH COURAGEOUS POLICY OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH U.S. AT TIME WHEN ANTI-AMERICANISM HAD FOR YEARS BEEN ONE OF BASIC TENETS OF ARAB POLITICS. SADAT'S DECISION TO TAKE HIS DISTANCE FROM USSR ALSO PRAISED. (PAPER IN ADDITION CARRIED LENGTHY EXCERPTS FROM HEYKAL MEMOIRS DETAILING EGYPTIAN-SOVIET DIFFICULTIES IN PERIOD LEADING UP TO 1973 WAR.)

4. ALAOUI CONCLUDED THAT ARABS, BY MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING TERRITORIAL PROBLEMS WITH ISRAEL AND BY SHOWING GOOD FAITH, WILL BE ABLE TO DISARM ISRAELI HAWKS AND THEIR "UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORTERS," THE U.S. KEY TO MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IS IN WASHINGTON, ALAOUI EMPHASIZED, AND AMERICA SHOULD BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO USE THE KEY. (FULL TEXT BY POUCH TO NEA/AFN.)

5. COMMENT: EDITORIAL SEEMS TO BE MAJOR EDUCATIONAL EFFORT BY GOM IN RESPONSE TO PERISISTENT AND VOLUMINOUS HOSTILE COMMENTARY ON DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BY OPPOSITION PRESS, ESPECIALLY THAT OF ISTIQLAL. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY HERZMHAS BEEN PERPLEXED BY UNUSUAL VENOM OF LOCAL CRITICISM, AND MAY WELL HAVE PRESSED GOM FOR MORE SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC SUPPORT. IN ANY CASE, NOT ONLY INTERNAL OPPOSITION PARTIES BUT HARD-LINERS ELSEHWERE IN ARAB WORLD ARE BOUND TO BE DISPLEASED, WITH POSSIBILITY OF NEGATIVE REPERCUSSIONS PARTICULARLY ON HITHERTO CAREFULLY CULTIVATED MOROCCAN RELATIONS WITH LIBYA AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PLO. WE UNDERSTAND SOVIET EMBASSY HAS ALREADY LODGED STRONG PROTEST AT FOREIGN MINISTRY OVER ALAOUI ARTICLE.
COON

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NNN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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